Active listening

This worksheet will help you with:

- conversation in all situations
- GESE Grade 7 and 8 – interactive and conversation phases
- ISE II – conversation task

Activity 1

Write each heading in the box that shows how the phrases in the box are most often used in conversation.

Headings

Expressing surprise
Expressing sympathy
Expressing disapproval
Encouraging the speaker to continue
Showing that you understand and are following
Expressing pleasure

Now put each of these phrases in the most suitable box:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Showing that you understand</th>
<th>Encouraging the speaker to continue</th>
<th>Expressing surprise</th>
<th>Expressing sympathy</th>
<th>Expressing pleasure</th>
<th>Expressing disapproval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Go on</td>
<td>Really? No! He didn’t!</td>
<td>Absolutely</td>
<td>Fantastic!</td>
<td>Well really!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>So what happened next?</td>
<td>Gosh! Did she really?</td>
<td>Poor you!</td>
<td>Great!</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wow! Well, well!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awesome!
Never!
What a shame!
Honestly!
Uhuh
So what did you do?

Note that the words and phrases that are used depend on age, fashion, geographical location and other factors. Try to notice which phrases different English speakers use in conversation.
Star test-taker activity

Decide which three of the following a star test-taker is most likely to do in the conversation phase of a test.

Draw a star for ‘Yes’ or draw a line through the sentence for ‘No’.

Say something quite often.
Show that you’re interested
Show that you’ve heard enough of what the speaker has to say.
Show you understand how the speaker feels or felt.
Change to talking about yourself as quickly as possible.